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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/743,480	10/17/2001	Gunter Stemple	3701/49519	2497

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EXAMINER

EREZO, DARWIN P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3731

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/13/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/743,480

Applicant(s)

STEMPLE, GUNTER

Examiner

Darwin P. Erez

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 November 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 26-28 and 44-47 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 47 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 26-28 and 44-46 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 was filed in this application after appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, but prior to a decision on the appeal. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the appeal has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114 and prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/16/06 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 26-28 and 44-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,400,781 to Davenport in view of US 4,998,018 to Kurahashi et al.

As to claim 44, Davenport discloses a system for monitoring the carbon dioxide level of a patient, the system comprising a mask **10** capable of surrounding a patient's mouth and nose (Fig. 3); a mask adapter **34** configured to include an air tube **24** connected to an interior portion of the mask; and a sensor adapter **36** connected to the mask adapter for supplying the air received within the air tube towards a gas analyzer (not shown). Davenport is silent with regards to the specifics of the gas analyzer.

Kurahashi discloses a respiratory gas analyzer for monitoring the carbon dioxide of a user/patient, the analyzer comprising an analysis duct **210** having an end for receiving air from a user and another end being open so as to lead directly to outside air without the use of a pump (col. 6, lines 9-13); a sensor (IR source **24** and detector **30**) for generating signals proportional to the carbon dioxide level of the exhaled air; and sensor adapter associated with the sensor and in which the analysis duct is arranged (the structural element of the tube **22**, which holds both the duct and the sensor) such that the exhaled air is acted upon only by the exhaled air pressure; and an evaluation device **33**.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Davenport to use the gas analyzer of Kurahashi since the gas analyzer of Kurahashi monitors the carbon dioxide level of exhaled air and is capable of monitoring the exhaled air received from the patient interface of Davenport. Both references deal with monitoring respiratory carbon dioxide level in exhaled air.

Furthermore, it should be noted that the Kurahashi reference discloses a sensor adapter comprising a sensor and an analysis duct, and that one of ordinary skill in the art would combine the sensor adapter of Kurahashi to the mask adapter of Davenport in order for the sensor adapter to receive expired gases from the mask.

With regards to claim 26-28, Davenport teaches the mask patient interface comprising a probe **30** having an excess oxygen opening provided to supply oxygen to

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the mask interior; and openings **26** provided in the mask for gas exchange between the mask interior and the outside air.

With regards to claim 45, Kurahashi teaches the sensor adapter having a receiving device for the sensor (the area where the IR emitter and detector are attached to).

With regards to claim 46, the sensor of Kurahashi is fully capable of measuring CO2 content for each exhaled breath of air.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 26-28 and 44-46 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

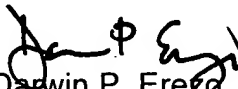
5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Darwin P. Erez who's telephone number is (571) 272-4695. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anh Tuan T. Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-4963. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Darwin P. Erez
Examiner
Art Unit 3731

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